

TOWN OF EGREMONT, MASSACHUSETTS  
MEETING OF THE SELECT BOARD  
MINUTES

\*\*\*\*\*

Date: November 24, 2020  
Time: 10:00am  
Place: Via Zoom Meeting  
Egremont

Present via zoom meeting were Chairman George McGurn, Vice-Chair Lucinda Fenn-Vermeulen, Board member Mary Brazie. Others in attendance: Marj Wexler, Mary McGurn, Eileen Vining, Juliette Haas, Emily Eyre, Fred Gordan, Joan Goodkind, Cara Becker, Richard Allen.

It was announced that the meeting is video and audio recorded.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the October 27 and November 10, 2020 minutes were accepted as amended.

SCHEDULED ISSUES:

Fred Gordon, a member of the Housing Committee, informed the Board that Richard Allen was instrumental in forming a Housing Trust and that the Grant that was applied for from Mass Real Estate Development for a housing master plan was denied. He explained that the Committee has been reviewing Great Barrington's process in issuing a request for proposals. Great Barrington has both a town sponsored housing Trust and has adopted the Community Preservation Act. Habitat for Humanity is interested in the Town's site but would prefer to be in an ownership role, not a lease agreement role. The Committee would like to know what the town wants and asked for guidance from the Board. The Board responded that the Town has agreed to 4 units, anything beyond that would need further town meeting action, and that it was the Committee's role to make a recommendation, based on the land available, to the Board. The Committee has been asked to develop parameters of the project and present to the Board in mid-January.

TOWN OFFICIALS:

Co-chair of the Green Committee Emily Eyre, asked the Board to include on its next agenda a presentation by a member of the Committee in regards to a rain barrel program that the Committee wishes to start. The Board agreed to do so.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Board discussed the possibility of a Special Town Meeting to vote on a Marijuana Bylaw during the winter. It is unlikely we could find an indoor location so plans for an outdoor meeting would need to be made. Voting clickers, used by other town's in the area, could be utilized for voting while people sat in their vehicles. Anyone wishing to speak would need to exit their vehicle and proceed to a microphone. The parking lot at French Park could be utilized but may not be large enough. Town Officials could set up under a tent with heaters in the horse riding ring. No date was set, though planning for about 3 months out might be possible.

The Board will hold an All-Boards meeting via zoom on Tuesday, December 8 at 6pm. The meeting will be tightly scripted.

The Board agreed to use a photo of the shore line of Prospect Lake, resplendent in full fall color, as the cover of the 2020 Annual Town Report book.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

There has been no further follow up on the Construction/Demolition fees at the Transfer Station.

#### COVID-19:

The Board voted unanimously to appoint Jayne Smith as the Covid-19 Compliance Officer. Board of Health Director Juliette Haas asked that the Board of Health be included in any request for Jayne's services.

It is believed that all issues at April Hill have been resolved.

The Dog Park will remain closed.

At town hall the vestibule at the handicapped entrance has been enclosed for the winter to make it more comfortable for outdoor meetings with those needing service from Town Hall employees. Service will continue in this way for the foreseeable future, with very little if any admittance to Town Hall by the public.

The Governor's Office has extended the free wi-fi hotspot service. This didn't affect Egremont as the Town had already established wi-fi hotspots at the Town Hall and the Library.

A hybrid model of teaching still continues in the school District.

#### FOLLOW UPS/UPDATES:

Juliette Haas reported that she has been made the town point person for the Municipal Vulnerability Program (MVP). The program is to be used to plan ways in which the community can be enhanced in an environmentally sustainable way. It is possible that landscape work at Town Hall could dovetail into this program. The grant application is due in the spring and is a two-part process, the first being for planning and the second being to implement the actions of the planning program. There was some confusion as to Juliette's role and the working group that the Board formed. The Board clarified that there was a working group formed for this and that all their meetings were to be posted.

Patrick Riordan is leading the Town Hall sign/landscape working group.

There has still been no determination if the Town will receive a grant to purchase a handicapped accessible van.

MassDOT has been following up with the Historical Commission and the Water Department on issues specific to aesthetic request of the Commission and the lay out of water lines along Route 23/41 as they continue to engineer for the reconstruction project.

Vice-chair Vermeulen, as a member of the Technology Committee negotiating team, expressed frustration over the progress on the Broadband agreement. It seems that when the team thinks they have an agreement, it turns out that Fiber Connect wants more changes. She also expressed her worry that having to partner with Monterey will delay Egremont's moving forward. Chairman McGurn assured her that things were moving along and would be settled soon and that Monterey's involvement was minor and would not delay Egremont's agreement.

#### SELECTMEN'S ITEMS:

The Board will meet for the All-Boards session at 6pm and in regular session at 10am on Tuesday, December 8.

Vice-Chair Vermeulen expressed concern over the large Free Cash figure that was certified. In the amount of \$586,928, it is the largest that the town has seen since records have been officially kept over the past 40 years. When Office Administrator Brazie conferred with Town Accountant Paul Lisi over this, he assured it was accurate. It was agreed to be conservation in spending any of this money.

Meeting adjourned at 11:24am.

Mary Brazie,  
Office Administrator

minutes.21/nov24

*The recording of the minutes is on record at the Town Hall for 90 days. Anyone who wishes to may obtain a copy or listen to the recording at Town Hall. Attachments are on file at Town Hall.*